IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Division of Serial No. 09/189,483

Applicant : Motoki KATO

Filed : Herewith

For : DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS AND RECORDING
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOVING PICTURE DATA

Examiner : G. Phillippe

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following as the first paragraph on page
1 of the specification:

--This is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 09/189,483, filed November 10, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-52.

Please add the following claims.

53. A continuous reproduction possibility verifying apparatus for encoded data for use in reproducing a series of encoded data encoded using a predictive encoding system, comprising means for decoding pictures of said encoded data from a first display starting point picture of said encoded data to a first display terminating point picture of said encoded data designated as an out-point picture, means for skipping the encoded data from said first display terminating point picture to a second display starting point picture designated as an in-point picture, and decoding pictures from said second display starting point picture to a second display terminating point picture, and means for verifying whether or not continuous display of said first display terminating point picture and said second display starting point picture is possible, based on the time difference between a display time point of said first display starting point picture and a display time point of said first display terminating point picture.

54. The continuous reproduction possibility verifying apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said encoded data has a bit rate, and further comprising:

storage time calculating means for calculating a
storage time required for storing in a memory said encoded data
required for decoding said second display starting point picture
after said encoded data is read out from a recording medium, and
prior to outputting the encoded data from said memory to said
decoding means, based on the volume of said encoded data required
for decoding said second display starting point picture and the
bit rate of said encoded data;

time difference comparison means for comparing said
time difference between the display time point of said first
display starting point picture and the display time point of said
first display terminating point picture and said storage time;
and

wherein said verifying means verifies that continuous
display of said first display terminating point picture and said
second display starting point picture is possible if said time
difference is not less than said storage time, and verifies that
continuous display of said first display terminating point
picture and said second display starting point picture is not
possible if said time difference is less than said storage time.

55. The continuous reproduction possibility verifying
apparatus according to claim 53, wherein:

said encoded data is encoded by the MPEG (Moving
Picture Experts Group) system.

56. A continuous reproduction possibility verifying method for encoded data for use in reproducing a series of encoded data encoded using a predictive encoding system, comprising the steps of decoding pictures of said encoded data from a first display starting point picture of said encoded data to a first display terminating point picture of said encoded data designated as an out-point picture, skipping encoded data from said first display terminating point picture to a second display starting point picture designated as an in-point picture, and decoding pictures from said second display starting point picture to a second display terminating point picture, and

verifying whether or not continuous display of said first display terminating point picture and said second display starting point picture is possible based on the time difference between a display time point of said first display starting point picture and a display time point of said first display terminating point picture.

57. The continuous reproduction possibility verifying method according to claim 56, wherein said encoded data has a bit rate, and further comprising the steps of:

calculating a storage time required for storing said encoded data required for decoding said second display starting point picture after said encoded data is read out from a recording medium, and prior to outputting the stored encoded data to a decoder, based on the volume of said encoded data required

for decoding said second display starting point picture and the bit rate of said encoded data;

comparing said time difference between the display time point of said first display starting point picture and the display time point of said first display terminating point picture to said storage time;

verifying that continuous display of said first display terminating point picture and said second display starting point picture is possible if said time difference is not less than said storage time; and

verifying that continuous display of said first display terminating point picture and said second display starting point picture is not possible if said time difference is less than said storage time.

58. The continuous reproduction possibility verifying apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said encoded data is encoded by the MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) system.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment makes reference to the parent application and cancels those claims that are being prosecuted in the parent. Claims 53-58, corresponding to the non-elected claims of Group III in the parent application, are presented in this divisional.

Entry of the above amendatory matter and early examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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